



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Sachi A. Hamai, Executive Officer  
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
Los Angeles, California 90012

Chief Administrative Officer  
Director of Coroner  
County Counsel

At its meeting held May 23, 2006, the Board took the following action:

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Anthony T. Hernandez, Director of the Coroner, made a presentation to the Board relating to conditions in the Coroner's Department and the handling of decedents. In addition, the Director presented the attached report relating to additional funding needs to address the excess body population in the crypt areas.

Dr. Lakshmanan Sathyavagiswaran, Chief Medical Examiner-Coroner and Craig Harvey, Chief of the Operations Bureau, Department of the Coroner, responded to questions posed by the Board.

Maria St. John, and Arianna Jimenez and Greg Myers, SEIU Local 660, addressed the Board.

After discussion, on motion of Supervisor Burke, seconded by Supervisor Antonovich, unanimously carried (Supervisor Knabe being absent), the Board took the following actions:

1. Instructed the Chief Administrative Officer to report back during Budget Deliberations scheduled for June 26, 2006, on the refurbishment of the Coroner facility versus building a new Coroner facility;
2. Instructed the Chief Administrative Officer to report back at Budget Deliberations with an evaluation of the janitorial services at the Coroner's office that includes an evaluation of in-house staffing versus outside contracting; whether additional janitorial personnel and hours are needed; and if the current janitorial staff support is appropriate;

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3. Instructed the Director of Coroner to report to the Board during Budget Deliberations on the following:
  - Management policies regarding the overall handling and release of bodies at the Coroner's facility;
  - Development of a mechanism that would allow the Coroner to have sufficient information on the decedents to prevent them from having to keep bodies for a long period of time;
  - Address the overcapacity of the crypt areas to determine if it is due to management practices versus an increased caseload; and
  - Make recommendations for the immediate resolution of the facility being over capacity;
4. Instructed the Director of Coroner and County Counsel to prepare a policy on what constitutes "due diligence" in locating the next of kin;
5. Instructed the Director of Coroner and County Counsel to report back during Budget Deliberations on how "Public Records Act" requests for information on decedents are being handled; and to propose a policy on releasing information to the next-of-kin when the public has requested documentation on their deceased family member; and
6. Continued consideration of the Director of Coroner's attached report to Budget Deliberations.

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Attachment

Copies to:

Each Supervisor

Chief Medical Examiner-Coroner